ASPH Update

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

January 2026

Welcome to the latest update about Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Joss Bigmore confirmed as Group Chair across Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals and Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trusts

Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals and Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trusts have confirmed Joss Bigmore as Group Chair, following the completion of governance processes at both organisations.

Joss was recently appointed Chair of Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals and continues in his role as Chair of Royal Surrey. The Group Chair arrangement strengthens leadership continuity and builds on the strong partnership already in place between the two trusts and supports closer joint working where this adds value for patients, staff and services.

Both trusts will continue to operate independently, with their own Boards, governance and decision-making responsibilities.

Group Chief Executive Louise Stead welcomed the confirmation, highlighting the benefits for staff, patients and system working

Michael Smith, Lead Governor, added: *"Governors have been closely involved throughout the appointment and governance process, and we are pleased to confirm Joss as Group Chair across Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals and Royal Surrey. As governors, we remain committed to representing the interests of our members, staff and local communities, and to providing robust assurance as this partnership continues to develop."*

Louise Stead, Group Chief Executive, said: *"I am delighted to welcome Joss as Chair of Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals. He brings a strong track record of leadership, a deep understanding of the NHS, and a clear commitment to collaboration and quality of care.*

" Confirming this Group Chair arrangement strengthens leadership continuity across both trusts. Ultimately, this is about creating the right conditions for our staff to succeed and for patients to receive the best possible care."

Joss Bigmore, Group Chair, commented: *"It is a privilege to be appointed as Chair of Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals, continuing my Chair role at Royal Surrey and to take on the role of Group Chair across both organisations.*

" I am very much looking forward to working closely with colleagues, governors and partners at both trusts. By building on the strong foundations already in place, we can continue to strengthen collaboration, support our staff and improve outcomes and experience for the communities we serve.

" I would also like to thank John Machin for his leadership during his time as Acting Chair at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals. His contribution has been invaluable, and I am pleased that he will continue to support the trust and myself in his role as ASPH Deputy Chair and Non-Executive Director."

Intense winter pressures throughout January

Throughout January, ASPH experienced a sustained period of exceptional pressure across all our services, which meant that along with other local hospitals, we did for a short time have to declare a Critical Incident.

We are incredibly grateful to all our colleagues and local health and care partners for their hard work and support during this challenging period.

As always, we remain proud of the exceptional professionalism, teamwork and resilience shown throughout this time, and for the continued commitment to providing safe and compassionate care for our patients.



Supporting patients and families at end-of-life

We are incredibly proud to share a recent Emergency Department initiative supporting our end-of-life patients and their loved ones.

Sasha Campbell (pictured left), our End-of-Life Link Nurse, developed a thoughtful idea to offer crocheted keepsakes to patients and their families, providing comfort during an unimaginably difficult time.

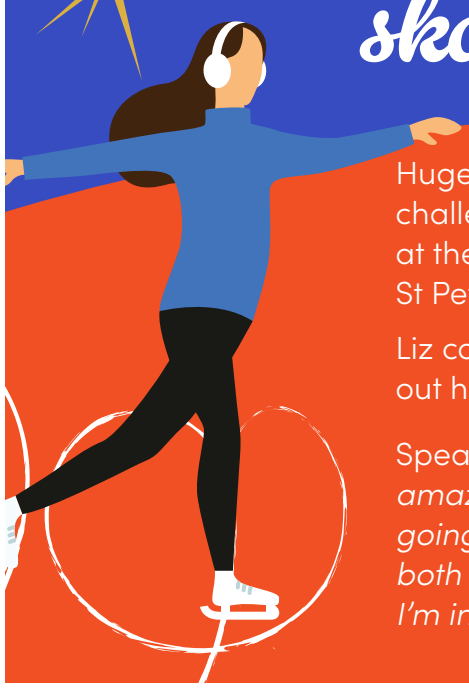


With the help of a small community group in Axminster, Devon, we were generously gifted hundreds of crocheted hearts and flowers. These simple but meaningful items have already made a powerful difference to relatives and friends at this difficult time.

Congratulations to Liz Amini, who completed her Christmas skate-a-thon

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals' CHARITY
Charity No: 1058567

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR







Huge congratulations to Liz Amini who set herself the challenge of completing a sponsored 26-mile skate-a-thon at the Guildford Spectrum to raise funds for the Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals' Charity's Bradley Unit Charitable Fund.

Liz completed an incredible 33 miles! You can still check out her wintery challenge and sponsor her **here**.

Speaking of her achievements Liz said *'Finishing the Marathon on Ice skating challenge felt absolutely amazing! It pushed me way outside of my comfort zone, but it was so worth it. What really kept me going was all the kindness and generosity from everyone who supported me. It was tough as times, both physically and mentally, but going the distance made every glide and every lap completely worth it. I'm incredibly grateful to be part of something that brings people together for such a great cause.'*



Congratulations to Paula Chaplin, winner of December's Star of the Month

December's award was presented to Paula by Dr Mark Roland, Chief Medical Officer. Paula received £100 Love to Shop vouchers and an invitation to the 2026 Staff Achievement Awards.

Paula's nomination, from one of her patients read: *"I previously had a very distressing experience with cervical smear screening which left me feeling anxious and apprehensive about future procedures. I was seen by Paula, and from the outset she took the time to clearly explain the procedure and discuss options to minimise pain and discomfort. Her approach demonstrated a genuine understanding of how patients may feel during these procedures. Paula is a clear example of a true "patient first" approach – with no ego, only professionalism and care. This is a big thank you to her."*

Patient feedback

I was struck by how warmly I was welcomed to SDEC, also by the professionalism, teamwork, and kindness the staff showed to everyone who came through their bays.

It was genuinely uplifting to watch how well they worked together - friendly, efficient, and always making each patient feel cared for, informed and comfortable.

If you'd like to share feedback about your experience at the trust, please email **asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net**

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